

W5YI

America's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter

REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable.

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May 15, 2003

Dayton Amateur Radio Club Announces 2003 Award Winners

The 2003 edition of the Dayton HamVention actually takes place in neighboring Trotwood, Ohio between May 16 and 18. It will be the 40th consecutive time that the world's largest hamfest has been held at Hara Arena which can hold over 500 inside exhibitors and 2500 outside vendors.

This year's event is also the last year on a five year contract. But there is every reason to believe that it will continue to be held there since it is the only location in the Dayton area that can handle 25 thousand attendees.

The sponsoring Dayton Amateur Radio Association has, however, dropped "Dayton" from its contention title just in case a move is necessary in the future. It is now simply "HamVention." Lease negotiations with Hara Arena's owners will begin once HamVention 2003 is over. A lease longer than two years is considered unlikely.

Hamvention attendance has been going down in recent years. Nearly 29 thousand people attended the 2000 HamVention; 2001 came in at about 26 thousand, a 10 percent decrease. Last year's 50th anniversary event was 24,832, down another 5 percent. Ten years ago (1993) the attendance was 33,669. It remains to be seen what effect the Iraq war and the fear of flying will have on attendance this year.

And due to the low paid attendance in past years, there will be no 2003 Hamvention banquet and after-dinner entertainment at the Nutter Center. The award ceremony is being replaced with an "Award Winners' Recognition Reception" at Hara

Arena Saturday evening, May 17th.

Annual HamVention Awards Winners

This year's **Amateur of the Year** is N6TR, Larry "Tree" Tyree. Among other contributions to ham radio, "Tree" is the creator, organizer, and promoter of the successful "Kids' Day." Now adopted by the ARRL, this twice-a-year contest event, was put together by "Tree" under the auspices of his ham club, the Boring Amateur Radio Club in Oregon.

The objective of "Kids' Day" is to introduce ham radio and the fun of socializing over radio and contesting to youngsters. This year's event was held January 4 with the second section to be held on June 21, 2003. This year's version will have kids exchanging QSO information on the 10, 15, 20 and 2-meter bands.

Kid's Day is intended to encourage young people (licensed or not) to enjoy Amateur Radio and to give them some hands-on experience on-the-air, so they might develop an interest in pursuing a license in the future. It is also intended to give hams a chance to share their station with their children.

"Tree" was first licensed in 1967 as WN6ZVC, later to be WB6ZVC. He got his N6TR callsign in the mid-1970's. Originally from the Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley area, "Tree" moved to Oregon in 1984. He is an avid contester who can regularly be heard on all bands and is the creator of the very popular "TR-LOG" contest logging software.

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The **2003 Technical Excellence Award** goes to K4HG, Dr. Steve Dimse of Cudjoe Key Florida for his work on Global APRS and FINDU. K4HG invented, developed, and personally funded and maintains the Global APRS Internet network that links 20,000 plus worldwide APRS operators.

This is a tremendous value in supporting emergency services, Amateur Radio Vehicle Tracking, Search and Rescue, Weather and storm tracking. Steve also wrote the global database software called FINDU, which can capture and integrate data for viewing by anyone.

Steve Dimse is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Miami and an attending physician at their Jackson Memorial Medical Center Emergency Department. In his spare time, Steve loves to play ham radio with an emphasis on the digital side of things.

His undergraduate degree in 1980 was in computer science from Pepperdine University in Malibu California. He then worked as a Programmer for Hughes Aircraft as a Member of the Technical Staff before entering medical school.

Among his technical achievements are his authoring of a number of APRS (Automatic Position Reporting System) related internet programs, including, Global APRS, javAPRS and APRServe. Dimse is also the developer and administrator of the APRS internet database on the Web at <www.findu.com>.

A truly amazing combination of GPS, Amateur Radio and the Internet, APRS produces real-time position reports and map displays of the location of home stations, moving vehicles, weather, and more. APRS has evolved into a global digital simplex communications channel. You can send almost anything, anytime, anywhere, to anyone.

The **2003 Special Achievement Award** goes to K1RFD, Jonathan Taylor of Ridgefield, Connecticut, for his development in 2002 of Echolink which integrates ham radio with the Internet.

EchoLink has given many hams both young and old whose license restricts them from using the HF bands the ability to talk and make friends all around the world via the Internet.

Echolink uses voice-over-IP technology and linking protocol software system to allow Amateur Radio stations to communicate with one another over the Internet.

If you are a licensed Amateur Radio operator, you can use EchoLink to connect your station (or

your computer) over the Internet to other amateurs using the same software. EchoLink is offered free of charge to the Amateur Radio community, and is supported by a network of volunteers. K1RFD does not even accept donations since he has no recurring costs and all software work is done by volunteers. Download instructions are available on the Internet at: <www.echolink.org>. You must hold a valid Amateur Radio license in order to use EchoLink.

All users of EchoLink are registered with their callsign and a number, and the software shows the complete list of all stations currently logged on. Any two stations logged on to the system can then connect to each other, and carry on a voice QSO.

In an astonishingly short period of time, EchoLink has become one of the dominant Amateur Radio VoIP systems with more than 79,000 users worldwide in 131 countries. Taylor's software permits worldwide connections between stations, from computer-to-station, or from computer-to-computer.

An excellent article on Echolink and other VoIP programs and the legalities of using them appear in the February 2003 issue of QST (See page 44.)

But Echolink is not Taylor's only contribution to ham radio. Another is his "EchoStation" software package. This is a repeater-control program designed to run under the popular Microsoft Windows platform. This makes it easy to set up a complete, fully-functional repeater or "announcement machine" using a personal computer.

Amateur Radio Station Call Signs

...sequentially issued as of the first of May 1, 2003:

District	Extra	Advanced	Tech./General/Novice
0	AB0YE	KI0SN	→ KC0PSW
1	AB1CJ	KE1ME	→ KB1JVT
2	AB2QM	KG2RS	→ KC2LGG
3	AB3AS	KF3EH	→ KB3JNV
4	AG4YZ	KV4GY	→ KG4ZEL
5	AD5NX	KM5XZ	→ KD5WHC
6	AE6LMA	KR6FE	→ KG6QHW
7	AC7YI	KK7XP	→ KD7VMK
8	AB8QW	KI8KF	→ KC8WKX
9	AB9HI	KG9QV	→ KC9DTL
Hawaii	→	AH6RQ	NH7QF WH6DGX
Alaska	→	AL7RS	KL1LY WL7CVS
Virgin Isl.	→	KP2CT	NP2MN WP2AIS
Puerto Rico	→	KP3BN	WP3XD WP4NPC

[Source: FCC Amateur Service Database, Washington, DC]

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CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

Mobile gambling using cell phones is taking off in Europe. Gambling could be the killer application that will help make third-generation cell phone licenses pay off.

In the Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, Britain and Austria, regular mobile phones are being used to buy lottery tickets, bet on sporting events or enter sweepstakes for prizes. Many countries in Asia are beginning to offer similar services.

Growth in "m-gambling" is based largely on text messaging, or SMS, technology. In Britain alone, more than 1 billion SMS messages are sent every month.

The gambling company and the wireless telecom operator typically split revenues.

In the United States interactive betting is illegal. But the proliferation of built-in cell phone location technologies is making it easier for gambling Web sites to determine if a user is in a country where betting online is outlawed.

One way this is done is by accessing embedded GPS chips in handsets. Another is by network-based signaling where the location measurements are made by the network. (Your cell is in a known location. You need only to be able to obtain this information.)

FCC rules mandate that carriers implement E911 ("enhanced 911") Automatic Location Identification (ALI) technology so that emergency dispatchers can quickly locate cell phone callers.

ALI and Location-Based Services (LBS) are causing privacy concerns because they can also be used to track individuals and transmit unsolicited commercial advertisements.

An unresolved question is who has the right to access individual user location information. Another security concern is protecting location data transmitted over the air from eavesdropping. One research company says LBS will be a \$40 billion business by 2006.

The FCC established a four-year E911 rollout which must be completed by 2005 in phases. Different carriers (depending on the wireless transmission technology used) were assigned dates by which new cell phone activations must contain Automatic Location Identification. More

info on E911 is on the FCC website at: www.fcc.gov/911/enhanced.

Broadband for under \$30 per month may become a reality.

FCC Chairman Mike Powell has given his approval to an emerging technology that provides high-speed Internet service over power lines.

He toured a house in suburban Maryland that can access e-mail, Web pages, telephone service and other data over the existing power grid and through standard electrical AC outlets.

Powell said that the FCC would try to encourage, rather than discourage, the new technology. "This is within striking distance of being the third major broadband pipe into the home," he said. Powell believes the service can be rolled out under Part 15 rules that let unlicensed wireless services emit tiny amounts of energy.

Existing cable-TV and telephone-based broadband networks do not serve all neighborhoods, and analysts say high prices remain a barrier to adoption. Roughly 14 percent of U.S. households subscribe to broadband service, which offers Internet speeds roughly 30 times as fast as conventional dial-up service.

Consumers who sign up for the powerline service could plug into the Internet through any outlet in the house with a \$70 modem the size of a deck of cards.

More info on the technology is available at the developer's website: www.currenttechnologies.com.

EMERGING COMMUNICATIONS

In New York City, it is now against the law to use a cell phone in "any indoor theatre, library, museum, gallery, motion picture theatre, concert hall or building in which theatrical, musical, dance, motion picture, lecture or other similar performances are exhibited." The law carries a fine of \$50 for offenders who are caught and cited. The legislation was first proposed by theater owners whose customers complained of cell phones ringing during performances.

A new study from Ipsos-Reid indicates that 38 percent of American adults are familiar with Wi-Fi.

The study also found that almost two-

thirds of Americans with a Wi-Fi system installed are using it to connect a PC or laptop to the Internet.

However, while the survey found that many Americans understand the key benefits of Wi-Fi technology, many are concerned about network security and home installation costs.

In addition, two-fifths are unsure if there is a Wi-Fi access point close to their home. A listing of all the Wi-Fi (802.11) wireless LAN "hotspots" (access points) for every major U.S. city can be found at: www.80211hotspots.com/.

The Portland (Oregon) metropolitan area ranks as the top market for wireless Internet accessibility in the U.S., according to a new survey from the computer chip maker Intel.

The study found that there are currently 3,700 "hotspots" scattered throughout the United States in locations such as cafes, airports and hotels. Hotspots are defined as areas where wireless Web access is available to the public.

Portland was ranked as the most unwired metropolitan area in the US, followed by San Francisco, Austin, Seattle, Orange County, Washington, San Diego, Denver, Ventura and Boston.

America's leading cable and DSL providers added a combined 6.4 million high-speed Internet subscribers during 2002, according to new data from Leichtman Research Group. At the end of 2002, the leading providers had collected a total of over 17.4 million high-speed U.S. Internet subscribers.

Leichtman forecasts that the total number of broadband cable and DSL Internet subscribers in the U.S. will surpass the number of narrowband subscribers in 2005 and will grow to nearly 49 million by the end of 2007. Broadband Internet subscriber growth in 2002 was the highest ever recorded, exceeding 2001's 5.4 million net additions.

The top U.S. cable providers added 4.3 million broadband Internet subscribers in 2002, while DSL providers added 2.1 million. The top cable operators now account for over 11.25 million broadband Internet subscribers in total, giving them a 65 percent share of the high-speed Internet market.

New research from comScore Media Metrix indicates that Canada has a higher percentage of broad-

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band Internet users than the U.S. As of January 2003, broadband users represented fully 53.6 percent of the Canadian online population, compared to just 33.8 percent of the US online population. Canadian Broadband Internet users spent 55 percent more time online than dial-up users and viewed almost twice as many Web pages over the course of the month.

The controlling interest in nation's biggest home satellite service company, DirecTV has been sold by General Motors' Hughes Electronics to global media firm, News Corp.

The \$6 billion deal ends a three-year effort by Rupert Murdoch, News Corp's chairman to take over DirecTV and its 11.2 million subscribers and add a U.S. outlet to his global satellite empire.

Hughes first agreed to sell itself to rival satellite broadcaster EchoStar Communications Corp., edging out News Corp's offer, but that deal was blocked by government regulators on antitrust grounds.

DirecTV and Echo-Star Corp., the second biggest satellite firm, together have 20% of the pay-TV market in the U.S.

WorldCom has changed its name to that of its long distance service, MCI and plans to emerge from bankruptcy later on this year. The company declared bankruptcy in July 2002 after what appears to be an \$11 billion accounting fraud made the company appear profitable.

Its corporate headquarters has now been relocated from Clinton, MS (where 17,000 people will eventually lose their jobs) to the Washington, D.C. suburb of Ashburn, VA.

The restructuring plan erased approximately \$36 billion in debt while allowing the company to keep its existing network assets. The firm has just kicked off a huge new advertising campaign to promote the MCI brand.

COMPUTERS & SOFTWARE

The most popular search engine is Google by far with 250 million searches per day. Other search engines: Overture 167 million, Iktomi 80 million, LookSmart 45 million, FindWhat 33 million, Ask Jeeves 20 million, and

Vista 18 million.

Dell Computer edges Hewlett-Packard in PC shipments. According to recent reports from research firms IDC and Gartner, Dell Computer was the top-selling PC manufacturer worldwide in the first quarter of 2003 ...recapturing the lead from HP.

Combined first quarter worldwide PC sales for all manufacturers totaled 34.6 million units, a 2.1 percent increase. Both IDC and Gartner said Dell shipped 6 million PCs ...about 17 per cent of the global PC market. HP came in at 16 percent with 5.5 million units. But Dell had a greater lead in the U.S. market, according to IDC, selling 3.7 million units to HP's 2.9 million.

For 2003, IDC has predicted that worldwide PC sales will grow by 6.9 percent, markedly better than 2002's growth rate of 1.5 percent.

The other top PC makers, in order of global sales, were IBM, Toshiba and NEC according to Gartner. In the United States, the order was IBM, Gateway and Toshiba.

GADGETS & GIZMOS

Netflix, Inc., the Los Gatos, California-based online DVD rental company continues to do well.

Despite a lousy economy, their first quarter sales jumped 82 percent and their net loss was sharply lower.

Netflix now has more than 1 million subscribers who pay \$19.95 to rent up to three DVD movies at a time. You can keep them as long as you want and there are no late fees. Its goal is 5 million members, or one in 20 U.S. households, within five years. They expect revenues of \$250 million this year.

Not bad for a company that started its subscription service in Sept. 1999. Netflix plans to have 25 distribution centers throughout the country before the end of 2003.

The expected competition from video retailer Blockbuster and Wal-Mart Stores so far has failed to materialize.

But come next year, that could change. Blockbuster announced on April 21 that it too will be offering a monthly flat-rate DVD ser-

vice online and in 5,500 retail stores in direct competition with Netflix.

Movie rentals are a big market! U.S. consumers spend \$24.4 billion annually to rent films and are increasingly choosing DVDs over videocassette tapes.

The DVD format was launched in the United States in 1997. By the end of this year, it is estimated there will be at least one DVD player in half of all U.S. homes.

Last month, for the first time, weekly DVD rental revenues surpassed VHS rental revenues, according to the Video Software Dealers Association.

Blockbuster boasts 48 million accounts and annual revenue of \$5.6 billion. They have testing "Freedom Pass" — a Netflix look-alike although at a higher cost — and believe that as many as 2 million Blockbuster customers will choose the online option.

An even bigger threat for Netflix down the road could be video-on-demand services from cable and satellite TV companies as the transition to digital high definition takes hold. VOD will have one big advantage. First run movies can be rented by everyone on the first day of availability.

INTERNET & WORLD WIDE WEB

Website offered "name your own price" substitute Wal-Mart bar code labels. Wal-mart was not amused by <re-code.com> which (up until April 2) posted and allowed users to print out Wal-Mart bar code labels that could be attached to their store products.

The website promoted using the labels to get lower prices by sticking them over existing product labels. But website owner, Mike Bonnanno of Loudonville, N.Y. said the whole thing was a joke intended to be satirical.

He stopped offering the online substitute bar code labels when he received a cease-and-desist letter from Wal-Mart charging <recode.com> with "encouraging and facilitating theft and fraud against Wal-Mart."

Businesses are now looking at replacing bar codes with more secure RFID (radio frequency identification) chips that can be identified from a short distance without individual item scanning.

The Direct Marketing Association has a free E-Mail Preference

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Service to help reduce unsolicited commercial e-mails. To "opt-out" of receiving unsolicited commercial email, use DMA's online form located at <www.dmaconsumers.org/offemallist.html>. Your online request will be effective for one year. The problem is that the list is non-mandatory and it is doubtful that the big spammers use it.

There are 116 million adult Internet users. But who are the non-users ...and why? To find out, the Pew Internet and American Life Project conducted a study on the digital divide and the declining growth of the Internet.

Tracking data shows a flattening of the overall growth of the Internet population since late 2001. Internet penetration rates have hovered between 57% and 61% since October 2001, rather than pursuing the steady climb that they had showed in prior years.

One possible explanation for this leveling trend is that the number of people dropping offline roughly equals the number of newcomers who come online each month." Other findings:

- **Net Evaders:** 20% of non-Internet users live with someone who uses the Internet from home.

- **Net Dropouts:** 17% of non-Internet users were once users. Most of them are dropouts because of technical problems such as broken computers or problems with their Internet Service Provider.

- **Truly Disconnected:** Some 24% of Americans are truly offline; they have no direct or indirect experience with the Internet.

- Between a quarter and half of current Internet users say they have dropped offline for an extended period at one point or another in their online life ...brought on by economic difficulties, waning interest in going online, or more pressing demands on their time.

- 60% of non-users know of a place in their community where Internet access is publicly available, while 76% of Internet users know of public access sites. The most frequently identified location of public access is a library.

- There is a variety of demographic factors that separate Internet users from non-users:

- Younger Americans are much more wired than older Americans.

- Well-to-do Americans are more wired

than the less well-off and the employed are far more wired than the unemployed.

- White Americans are more wired than African-Americans and Hispanics.

- Well-educated Americans are more wired than those who only completed high school.

- Suburban and urban residents are more wired than rural residents.

- Parents of children living at home are more wired than non-parents.

- Those who read newspapers, watch TV, and use cell phones and other technologies are more likely to use the Internet than those who don't.

- Some 56% of non-Internet users do not think they will ever go online. These people are generally the poorer, older segment of the not-online population, and are more likely to be white, female, retired and living in rural areas.

- Non-users say they feel no need or desire to use the Internet, or that going online is not a good use of their time. This nonchalance and resistance is often related to a general misconception of what the Web and e-mail have to offer. In other cases, reluctance is connected to specific obstacles, fears, or previous online experiences.

- About a third of non-Internet users say the cost of computers and Internet access is a major problem for them.

- An even larger number of non-users said they have not gone online because they are worried about online pornography, credit card theft, and fraud.

- Some 29% say they don't have time to use the Internet, and 27% say they believe the Internet is too complicated and hard to understand.

- Some were embarrassed over lack of computer skills. Others feared breaking or damaging computers. Others were slowed down by limited English language skills.

- The disabled have among the lowest levels of Internet access in America. They face unique hurdles going online. 38% of disabled Americans go online, compared to 58% of all Americans. 28% of disabled non-users say their disability makes it difficult or impossible for them to go online. The cost of technological and software solutions is expensive, \$3,000 for a Braille computer interface, for example.

A Supreme Court showdown may be in the works over the federal government's power to punish radio and TV stations for indecent or obscene broadcasts.

In a crack down on "shock jocks" the FCC has fined Detroit radio broadcaster WKRK-FM \$27,500 for airing 'indecent material.'

Current rules state that between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m., when children are most likely to be in the audience, broadcasters can't air indecent content "describing or depicting sexual or excretory organs or activities" in a way "patently offensive by contemporary community standards."

It seems the station invited listeners to call WKRK-FM to discuss their sexual practices and techniques. The FCC said the "extremely lewd and vulgar" broadcast met the indecency standard and warranted sanction. The base \$7,000 fine was quadrupled to a maximum \$27,500 due to "the egregious nature of the violation."

Commissioner Mike Copps said the fine was only "a financial slap on the wrist" and a hearing should be held "...to determine whether the station's license should be revoked."

FCC Chairman Michael Powell agreed and said the commission will revoke licenses of stations that repeatedly violate the agency's restrictions on broadcasts found obscene or harmful to children.

"At some point, enough is enough," Powell told broadcasters attending the NAB's convention in Las Vegas. "Revocation is an option under the law," Powell said.

The FCC has fined many radio stations but has never exercised its declared right to revoke a license for violating indecency or obscenity rules.

WKRK is owned by Infinity Broadcasting, one of the nation's largest radio companies. The firm has been singled out by the FCC as a possible revocation target because of repeated violations

They have generated nearly \$2 million dollars in indecency fines since 1988. Infinity's position is that speech is protected by the First Amendment and that the government cannot decide what we hear or say.

In a published report, the Federal Trade Commission said "Identity Theft" complaints accounted for nearly than half of all complaints to the FTC last year.

WASHINGTON WHISPERS

The FTC's toll-free number (1-877-ID-THEFT) is the central clearinghouse for ID theft complaints. Calls to the FTC have increased, from more than 100,000 calls in fiscal year 2001 to more than 185,000 in fiscal year 2002.

The FTC has an excellent booklet entitled: "Identity: When Bad Things Happen to Your Good Name" available free online at: <www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/credit/idtheft.htm>

What are people complaining about? FTC's Top 10 Consumer Fraud Complaints for Calendar Year 2002:

1. Identity Theft - 43%
2. Internet Auctions - 13%
3. Internet Services, Computer Complaints - 6%
4. Advance-Fee Loans, Credit Protection - 5%
5. Shop-at-Home/Catalog Sales - 5%
6. Foreign Money Offers - 4%
7. Prizes, Sweepstakes, Lotteries - 4%
8. Business Opportunity, Work-at-Home - 3%
9. Telephone Services - 2%
10. Health Care - 2%

The President has signed the Omnibus appropriations bill into law, providing funding to allow the FTC to begin developing a national "Do Not Call" registry. The registry gives consumers a choice about whether to receive most telemarketing calls.

Beginning in July, consumers will be able to list their telephone numbers in the national registry, which telemarketers are required to access in September. Telemarketers must pay a fee to obtain updated copies of the registry.

As of October, it will be illegal for most telemarketers to call a number listed in the registry. (Fine is \$11,000 per violation.) When a call is made, telemarketers are required to transmit their telephone number to your caller ID service.

Registration will be free to consumers by calling a toll free number (not yet assigned) or by accessing a special form on the FTC website. Registration must be renewed every five years or when a phone number is changed. Additional information: <www.ftc.gov/donotcall>.

The Supreme Court returned to work on April 21st for the final session of oral arguments this term.

The court's busiest season then begins. One of the 40 rulings expected by the court will be on the constitutionality of requiring public libraries to screen out some material available on library Internet terminals.

In a separate, related issue, the 64,000 member strong American Library Association opposes a section of the U.S. Patriot Act adopted by Congress after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The law removes some of the restrictions of conventional search warrants.

Under the Patriot Act, federal law-enforcement officials seeking to seize library records and hard drives, or to trace e-mail, no longer have to go to open court and show probable cause. They may go to a secret court, established under the 1978 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to get a judge's order. They need only certify that what they are requesting is relevant to a foreign-intelligence investigation.

Furthermore, agents do not need to tell a suspect that he/she is suspected of committing a crime using a public computer. And libraries are prohibited from informing patrons — or even staff members — that the FBI or other law enforcement agents sought the records.

Libraries became a focal point in terrorism investigation after evidence revealed some of the Sept. 11 hijackers used public computers. Some libraries are already destroying old records to eliminate being a party to a situation where "Big Brother is watching you." One even has a warning taped to its public computers saying "Beware, anything you read is now subject to secret scrutiny by federal agents."

AMATEUR RADIO

The United Kingdom's Radiocommunications Agency (or "RA" as it is called) said that it had issued over 6,000 Foundation licenses in 2002, its first year of availability.

"Of those 6000 over 3100 are new to Amateur Radio. This represents a substantial increase in the number of amateurs and a very welcome change to what was a slow downward trend," the RA said.

Foundation license applicants complete a 10 hour training course followed by a 20 multiple-choice question exam administered by a registered body (such as a local amateur radio club). The course is very basic and focuses on safety, avoiding interference and good operating practice.

Although the license allows beginners to operate all modes on all HF bands (except 10 meters) at low power, there is essentially no Morse code requirement.

Instead examinees must only recognize certain Morse characters and they may refer to a crib sheet to assist them.

For example, one of the 20 questions might be: "What is the letter 'A'?" So you look at the crib sheet, write down the letter "A" as a dot and a dash and then send it. The same would work in reverse when decoding a series of dots and dashes - you write them down and using the crib sheet, translate them into letters.

Foundation licensees may only use commercially available transmitting equipment. Home built equipment is not permitted unless constructed from a commercially available kit.

Licensees pay an annual fee of £15 ...about \$22.50 U.S. (Free to applicants under 21 and over 75 years of age.) All Foundation license call signs begin with M3 and licensees may select the 3 suffix letters (if available.).

The United Kingdom plans to have three different Amateur Radio licenses after WRC-2003; the Foundation (10 watt output), Intermediate (50 watt output) and Full license (400 watt output.)

FCC Amateur Radio Enforcement

Paul B. Christensen, W9AC (Jacksonville, FL), Anthony G. Latin, W4NSG (Ocala, FL), Sareno J. Salerno, W2ONV (Saddle Brook, NJ) and John M. Anning, NU9N (Dixon, IL) have been sent identical "FCC Advisory Notices" notifying them that the Commission has received numerous complaints "...alleging that your stations are transmitting an 'enhanced Single Sideband' emission with a bandwidth wider than necessary and contrary to good engineering practice."

The FCC pointed out that "...Section 97.307(a) requires that 'no Amateur station transmission shall occupy more bandwidth than necessary for the information rate and emission type being transmitted, in accordance with good Amateur practice.'"

"Wide band overly-processed audio, especially when coupled with the high intermodulation levels of certain amplifiers, results in the use of bandwidths extremely inconsiderate of other operators," FCC said.

"The Amateur Service is not a substitute for the broadcast service, and the frequencies allocated to the Amateur Service were not allocated for a broadcast quality audio emission or sound. Section 97.101

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sets out the general standards Amateur stations must follow:"

(a) "In all respects not specifically covered by FCC Rules each Amateur station must be operated in accordance with good engineering and good Amateur practice.

(b) "Each station licensee and each control operator must cooperate in selecting transmitting channels and in making the most effective use of the Amateur Service frequencies (emphasis added). No frequency will be assigned for the exclusive use of any station."

"When an Amateur station transmits a voice emission that occupies more bandwidth than necessary in order to achieve a 'great audio' sound, that emission occupies spectrum that could be utilized by several other Amateur stations."

"To occupy more bandwidth necessary in a heavily used Amateur band is not only extremely inconsiderate, but is contrary to requirement that Amateur operators cooperate in the utilization of frequencies allocated to them, and make the most effective use of them."

"Such shortsightedness on the part of control operators that causes a station to transmit an 'enhanced Single Sideband' emission inevitably leads to ill will between operators, and likely will result in petitions for rule making requesting that the Commission establish bandwidth limitations for Amateur station emissions."

"No frequencies in the Amateur Service are designated as 'wideband audio' frequencies, either by Commission rule or in any informal band plans."

"The many complaints that we are receiving regarding the operation of your station leads to the conclusion that your operation is having a negative impact on the Amateur Radio Service."

W9AC, W4NSG, W2ONV and NU9N were directed to make certain that their station conforms to above standards and "...that you operate in the best interests of the Amateur Radio Service as a whole."

Hector L. Morales, KA1TEN (West Palm Beach, FL) has been cited by the FCC for operating his Amateur Radio equipment on 20 meters (14.322 MHz). "Under your Technician Class Amateur license, you are not authorized to use those frequencies. ...such operation could not only lead to revocation of your license or a monetary forfeiture, but

would also jeopardize any future attempts to obtain an upgraded Amateur Radio license." He was directed to contact the FCC.

Julio A. Cedeno, N2GRM (Hollywood, FL) has been cited by the FCC for making "transmissions containing threats to another Amateur operator as well as language prohibited by the Commission's rules. The Commission's rules prohibit transmission of obscene or indecent words or language."

"Obscene speech is not protected by the First Amendment and cannot be broadcast at any time. To be obscene, material must meet a three point test: (1) an average person, applying contemporary community standards, must find that the material, as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest; (2) the material must depict or describe, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by applicable law; and (3) the material, taken as a whole, must lack serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value."

"The Commission defines indecency as language or material that, in context, depicts or describes, in terms patently offensive as measured by contemporary community standards, sexual or excretory activities or organs. The Supreme Court has repeatedly rejected arguments that this definition is unconstitutionally vague."

N2GRM was sent a transcription (both in English and Spanish) of the transmissions made on 14.322 MHz from his station on March 5 and 9, 2003 and he must respond to the complaint within 20 days.

"You are requested to specifically address the threats in the transmissions as well as the language. Threats made against other licensees are viewed very seriously by the Commission. The response you submit will be used to determine what enforcement action to take in this matter." FCC said.

"...failure to respond to this inquiry, or the submission of a willfully false or misleading reply, would be a separate violation and could result in a fine or imprisonment, as well as license revocation."

Stuart A. Sokolin, W6TA (Rolling Hills, CA) has been asked to explain his need for six club call in his name as trustee, three of which were granted on the same day. They are:

W6FAN, Air Moving Equipment Co.
W6III, Buggy Whip DX Radio Assoc.

K9MAV, Mavrick Kennel Club
K9QCU, Original Chicago Call Sign Assoc.
K9YA, Robert F. Heytow Mem. Radio Club
W6MJE, Rolling Hills Radio Club

Sokolin also applied for the Vanity Call Sign of W6TT, formerly held by Elvin Feige. "In your application you provided documentation that the date of death of Feige was June 11, 2000, when in fact the date of death was June 11, 2001. Upon that discovery, your application was dismissed."

The FCC is now investigating the club call signs assigned to him. He is to provide justification for each of these call signs within 30 days. "Where you are claiming that they are used by clubs, provide a list of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the members, meeting times and dates within the past year, proposed meeting times and locations within the coming year, and copies of minutes, if any, taken at meetings within the past three months for each club."

"We also request that you list any other club call signs licensed in your name as trustee that are not shown here. You may request cancellation of any unneeded or inactive club call signs. We intend to cancel listed club call signs if you have not satisfactorily responded to this letter within 30 days from the above date."

George J. Zardecki, N9VTB (Chicago, IL) has filed complaints with the FCC alleging deliberate interference on the 20 Meter Amateur band. The FCC said they have reviewed those complaints and will take action.

The FCC added that "...in several instances your own conduct on the Amateur frequency was as bad or worse than the party about whom you complained.

"While we will take action in this case, we caution you that retaliatory interference on your part, or slander, name calling and the like only worsens conditions on the frequency and damages the Amateur Radio Service both nationally and internationally."

"There is no justification for on the air 'I was here first' battles, given the thousands of HF frequencies available to the Amateur Service and the ease with which Amateur Radio equipment can change frequencies."

"Finally, your claim that there is a 'Polish calling frequency' on the 20 Meter Amateur band is without foundation either in the Commission's rules or in any voluntary band plan of which we are aware."

Anti-Spam Bill Reaches U.S. Senate, Gains Support

Every day, millions of people receive dozens of unsolicited bulk e-mails (UBE), known popularly as 'spam.' Some users see spam as a minor annoyance, while others are so overwhelmed with spam that they are forced to switch e-mail addresses.

According to Jupiter Research, the average e-mail user received more than 2,200 spam messages last year. It is estimated that unwanted junk e-mail accounts for 40 percent of e-mail traffic worldwide. Spammers often hide behind false return addresses to avoid the ire of their targets and to slip through filtering software.

While most Spam originates from U.S. addresses, much comes from overseas such as urgent requests for assistance from "Nigerian colonels" who supposedly have millions of dollars to share. Much of it is "Make Money From Home!" offers from individuals who were suckered into spending money for various strike-it-rich plans complete with low cost e-mail advertising.

The Spamhaus Project contends that 90 percent of all American and European spam is sent out by a relatively few spammers. And Spamhaus.org tells you who they are ...complete with addresses, phone numbers and other company and personal information.

The *Spamhaus Block List* (SBL) is a free realtime DNS-based database of IP addresses of verified spammers, spam gangs and spam services. Used by ISP's, the list is rebuilt and reloaded every hour, on the

hour, to ensure that new spam messages are swiftly identified. The *Spamhaus Register of Known Spam Operations* (ROKSO) lists 180+ known spammers, many with criminal records for fraud and theft. These professional, chronic spammers are loosely grouped into "spam gangs" and move from network to network seeking out Internet Service Providers (ISPs) known for not enforcing anti-spam policies.

The question is what can be done about it.

Two U.S. Senators are once again are trying to reduce unwanted commercial clutter in consumers' e-mail inboxes. Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Sen. Conrad Burns, (R-Mont.) introduced legislation requiring Internet marketers to use legitimate return addresses in their messages. A similar bill from Wyden and Burns made it out of commerce committee last year but did not come to a vote in the Senate.

The bill would not allow consumers to sue spammers directly, but would require state attorneys general to sue on their behalf. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) could also levy fine against violators, and Internet

providers could block spammers from their networks.

The bill, *Controlling the Assault of Non-Solicited Pornography and Marketing Act of 2003*, or the CAN SPAM Act, would require commercial e-mail senders to include an opt-out address in every message and would levy a fine of \$10 for each message sent after a consumer has asked to be removed from a list.

List of supporters grows

American OnLine (AOL) already has said that it supports legislation aimed at unsolicited commercial e-mail "...especially offensive spam violators – those who continue their daily spam attacks using the most fraudulent and evasive methods."

"AOL will continue to focus on the approach that works best on spam fighting: a positive mix of legislation and litigation, filtering technology and member tools and education in order to get the job done to 'can the spam,'" the company said. Internet portal Yahoo! also has said it supports the bill.

The Direct Marketing Association, a trade group representing telemarketers and direct mailers, has changed its position and now says it too will support a national anti-spam law. But DMA wants to be involved in the crafting of an effective bill....one that would be strong enough bill to withstand 1st Amendment challenges. Congress has been slow to act against any infringement of free speech or censorship.

The Definition of Spam

The word "Spam" as applied to E-mail means Unsolicited Bulk E-mail [UBE]. Unsolicited means that the recipient has not granted verifiable permission for the message to be sent. Bulk means that the message is sent as part of a larger collection of messages, all having substantively identical content. An electronic message is "spam" if the recipient's personal identity and context are irrelevant because the message is equally applicable to many other potential recipients.

What other states and countries are doing

The European Parliament has already voted to ban Unsolicited Bulk E-mail. Article 13 of the Directive on processing of personal data and the protection of privacy in the electronic communications sector acts as a guide to legislation banning spam throughout the 15 European Union member countries. EU Members Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy and Norway have already implemented 'opt-in' e-mail in their national legislation. In some countries, notably England, spam falls under the Criminal Statutes regarding unauthorized alteration of computer data or theft of computer resources. (Theft of access time and disk space.)

In the U.S. twenty-seven states have passed some sort of restrictive anti-spam legislation, and some, including New York, already have filed civil lawsuits against some violators.

FTC begins war on spammers

On April 30th, the Federal Trade Commission hosted a 3-day open forum at their Washington, DC offices

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which explored the proliferation of, and potential solutions to, unwanted spam and examined the ability of spammers to remain anonymous and how it assists those who perpetrate fraud and complicates law enforcement efforts.

The workshop included a broad range of panels which addressed different issues associated with spam, including the daily experience of consumers, filter programs and how ISP personnel deal with spam; e-mail address harvesting technology; deceptive routing and subject information in spam, security weaknesses (such as viruses), the costs and benefits of spam and the costs to ISPs for filtering, bandwidth, and customer service ...all of which are passed on to consumers.

Amateur radio operators ready to help if needed

Greenwich resident Anthony Salvate, N1TKS is an Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator. In the event of a natural disaster or terrorist attack that disables regular communication lines, a network of "hams" is being set up in Connecticut for backup.

He recently joined a growing number of fellow hobbyists who are getting certified to help emergency groups such as the American Red Cross or local hospitals communicate during emergency situations. "It's a pleasure hobby, but also a national resource in a time of disaster," Salvate said.

It's a resource because, according to the American Radio Relay League, there are more than 675,000 amateur radio operators in the United States who have the ability to communicate with high-powered equipment able to send and receive transmissions over thousands of miles. Thus, when the infrastructure is crippled, in the case of an ice storm, or overloaded -- such as during 9/11, when phones were overloaded and antennae atop the World Trade Center were destroyed -- these hams can still get their messages through.

"It's more of a backup," said Salvate, 49. "It doesn't replace the infrastructure. It backs it up when the system is down."

Connecticut is currently the only state creating a network of certified emergency communicators, according to officials at the American Radio Relay League and United Technologies Corp., which is providing the funding to certify hams.

To become certified, a ham must pass a course, paid for by UTC's grant, which tests the operator's knowledge and skills. In the event of an emergency requiring the assistance of hams to communicate, they would be contacted through a regional group such as the Greater Norwalk Radio Club, of which Salvate is a member.

Depending on the emergency, hams would send or receive messages to allow groups like the Red Cross to communicate with shelters. The hams could do this from home or from mobile units.

Hartford-based UTC set up a fund after 9/11 to certify Amateur Radio operators in emergency communications. The funding, about \$30,000, pays for the certification course and was first made available in June 2002, when only 12 hams were certified for emergency communications. In Connecticut, more than 280 are certified now, said Jennifer Hagy, N1TDY of the American Radio Relay League, a national non-profit group for amateur radio, based in Newington.

Paul Jackson, a spokesman for UTC, said the company, which owns Sikorsky Aircraft Corp., where Black Hawk helicopters are made, set up the fund in part because it is a defense contractor. "We view homeland security as an important function," Jackson said.

Salvate, a private practice physician in Bronxville, N.Y., who lives near Western Middle School, said he got certified because public service is part of being a ham radio operator. When the Federal Communications Commission granted certain portions of the radio spectrum to ham radio operators, Salvate said, the same legislation required volunteers to use those frequencies to help out in emergencies.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a formerly independent agency now under the Department of Homeland Security, has also created a Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), which calls Amateur Radio operators into action through their

regional organizations during times of crisis, such as floods, tornadoes and major airline disasters. Ham radio operators also provide communications during large public events such as the New York Marathon, Salvate said.

"You have all these hams who own their own equipment, using several different modes, like Morse code, voice, television, digital or amateur satellite," he said. "It doesn't cost the government anything."

Salvate said he was attracted to the mystique of Amateur Radio at an early age by the idea of communicating over thousands of miles without wires or any sort of infrastructure.

In the 1970s he got swept up in the "CB craze" -- citizens band -- and in the early 1990s he was convinced by some colleagues to get his license as a ham radio operator. From his radio shack at home, he has made contact with astronauts aboard the International Space Station, and with researchers at the South Pole.

He said the hobby tends to attract people who are into communications and "tinkering," though nowadays it seems to have less of a pull.

"With the Internet it's more difficult to get people involved, with all that instant access," he said. "But when that infrastructure breaks down, they'll have to rely on the foundation: radio."

This feature story appeared in the April 13th edition of the **Greenwich Time** newspaper. (Connecticut) complete with a photo of Dr. Anthony Salvate N1TKS operating his station.

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Looks like Satellite Broadcast Radio is a Success

In 1992, the FCC allocated part of the S-band (2.3 GHz) spectrum for nationwide broadcasting of a satellite-based Digital Audio Radio Service (DARS). An FCC Report and Order adopted March 3, 1997, provided the licensing, technical, and auction rules for satellite broadcasting. Satellite radio could be either subscription or advertiser supported, or a combination of both.

The FCC adopted the licensing and auction rules for DARS over the objections of terrestrial broadcasters who claimed that DARS would threaten the viability of local radio broadcasting. The National Association of Broadcasters was particularly enraged about the prospect of having to compete with nationwide satellite radio.

The target market for satellite radio is the 34 million commuters spending 1 to 2 hours daily in a car, 3 million truck drivers, 3 million owners of recreational vehicles and the 45 million people 12 and older, living in areas with limited (less than 6) FM radio stations.

A spectrum auction was conducted and the FCC awarded 8-year radio broadcast licenses on April 2, 1997, to American Mobile Radio (now XM Satellite Radio) and CD Radio (now Sirius Satellite Radio). Each paid more than \$80 million to use a 12.5 MHz wide spectrum slice in the S-band for digital satellite radio transmission.

XM Radio uses the 2332.5 to 2345.0 MHz frequency band; Sirius Radio, the 2320.0 to 2332.5 MHz segment. In urban areas, where buildings can block out the satellite signal, both services use ground repeaters to supplement their signal. Crystal clear satellite broadcast radio is now a reality ...and it is catching on!

XM and Sirius Satellite Radio each offer 100 digital channels of music and talk to listeners throughout the continental U.S. Unlike conventional radio stations that have an average reception range of approximately 30 miles, satellite radio provides coast-to-coast coverage with no signal fades.

XM offers 70 digital-quality music channels (35 are commercial-free) and 31 channels of entertainment and sports programming for \$9.99 a month. Sirius offers 60 digital music channels with no commercials, along with 40 talk and sports channels for \$12.95 a month. Both services also share several news and entertainment providers such as Bloomberg, USA Today, BBC, CNN/Sports Illustrated, CNBC, ESPN, and the Weather Channel.

Washington, DC based XM began operation in November 2001 and just a year and a half later (mid-April 2003) announced that it had passed the 500,000 subscriber mark. Its shares climbed 12 percent on the announcement. XM even has its own online fan site on the Web at <www.xmfan.com>.

XM plans to have one million subscribers before the end of this year and is projecting that it will reach the break-even point late next year. It operates two satellites nick-named Rock and Roll; one is parked over the eastern United States and the other over the west.

Like cable and satellite TV, XM offers premium channels which cost more. For example: XM's new Playboy channel costs an additional \$2.99 a month.

Sirius Satellite Radio, which operates three satellites, is named after the brightest star in the Northern Hemisphere. Its national broadcast studio complex is located in Rockefeller Center, in the heart of New York City. Launched only last summer, Sirius currently has about 30,000 subscribers. It charges \$12.95 a month and claims it will have 300,000 customers by the end of 2003.

Like XM, Sirius is also adding special interest channels. It recently unveiled a nationwide round-the-clock radio channel aimed at gay audiences. The all-talk channel dubbed "OutQ" features around-the-clock shows about news, entertainment and politics for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender listeners. The objective is to combine a relatively few customers in local markets into one, large national audience.

Although the outlook for satellite radio has brightened tremendously, there is still a question of how many Americans are willing to pay \$200 or more to get a satellite radio receiver and then pay an additional \$120.00 to \$150.00 a year to subscribe. The subscription payment is by a recurring credit card charge. Both services have lost money as they try to attract subscribers.

Satellite receivers can receive conventional AM/FM radio as well as satellite radio. All major manufacturers are providing the AM/FM/SAT radios which can be purchased at such places as Wal-Mart, Best Buy, Circuit City and other major retailers nationwide.

XM has estimated it needs about four million subscribers to its services to break even. Sirius aims to break even in 2005, with as few as two million subscribers.

Both satellite services are targeting the driving public. XM radio has aligned itself with General Motors and new cars are now coming with satellite radio already pre-installed. GM chose XM because they agreed to purchase their satellites and technology from Hughes Electronics, a GM subsidiary.

Sirius has an agreements to install AM/FM/SAT radios in Ford, Chrysler, BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Jaguar, Volvo, Mazda, Dodge, Jeep®, Volkswagen, Audi, Nissan, and Infiniti vehicles. And Hertz is in the process of adding Sirius satellite receivers as an option in its rental fleet.

But a black cloud is hovering in the future. XM and Sirius face tougher competition from traditional radio broadcasters as terrestrial radio gears up for digital transmission which offers a greater reception range, sound quality matching that of satellite radio and the ability to simultaneously transmit text and graphic screens.

Local digital radio stations also can send messages tailored to a local audience, like traffic reports and shopping ads. Some digital broadcasters are already on the air. The "iBiquity" technology they're converting to squeezes the digital signal into the same frequencies that a station uses for its AM or FM broadcasts.